



MICROSOFT ISA

High Availability and Secure Traffic Management For Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration Server (ISA) Deployments Using the F5 BIG-IP Solution

Executive Summary

With the growing number of web-based applications being introduced into the network, enterprises are looking for highly secure solutions. F5 Networks and Microsoft® products deliver a robust and optimized solution for managing IP-based traffic, applications, and Web Services with enterprise-class security.

F5 Networks' BIG-IP® application traffic manager provides superior, high availability firewall load balancing, administration, management, and security for Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration Server (ISA) 2000 deployments. Customers who deploy the BIG-IP product with Microsoft's ISA benefit through enhanced performance, security, uptime, and scalability. As part of the solution, F5 is also able to deliver programmatic control of BIG-IP and ISA deployments using its iControl SOAP/XML API (Application Programming Interface). By working together, F5 Networks and Microsoft offer enterprise customers an effective solution that provides extremely reliable and secure delivery of Web services and applications.

Challenges

Network security and high availability are critical for many enterprises as they roll out IP-based business applications and services that involve sensitive data and information. The firewall is an organization's first line of defense for providing protection to sensitive information on the network. If the firewall is not functioning, it cannot provide the required protection, and it may even deny access to qualified users. The BIG-IP application traffic management solution not only brings enhanced security to Microsoft ISA Server deployments, but increased uptime, performance, and scalability.

Solution

When deployed together, F5 Networks and Microsoft products deliver a robust and optimized solution for managing IP-based traffic, applications and Web Services with enterprise-class security. The BIG-IP product automatically directs user requests to only those ISA servers that are functioning properly, and it optimally distributes load based upon a variety of performance and business criteria.

This BIG-IP and ISA server solution gives customers a competitive edge by providing scalability, fault tolerance, and enhanced performance through its best practices approach of load balancing traffic. This solution also provides enhanced security through the addition of two hardened security layers via a firewall sandwich implementation. It also provides extensible, programmatic control, using F5 Network's iControl® and its SOAP/XML API, enabling automated administration, maintenance of multi-server ISA implementations, and ISA Server registration and removal.

About F5

F5 Networks is the global leader in Application Delivery Networking. F5 provides solutions that make applications secure, fast and available for everyone, helping organizations get the most out of their investment. By adding intelligence and manageability into the network to offload applications, F5 optimizes applications and allows them to work faster and consume fewer resources. F5's extensible architecture intelligently integrates application optimization, protects the application and the network, and delivers application reliability—all on one universal platform. Over 10,000 organizations and service providers worldwide trust F5 to keep their applications running. The company is headquartered in Seattle, Washington with offices worldwide. For more information, go to www.f5.com.

About Microsoft ISA

Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2000 is an enterprise firewall and Web cache server that enables IT administrators for businesses of all sizes to provide controlled, secure and fast Internet access for their organization. Building on the security and manageability of the Microsoft Windows® 2000 platform, ISA Server provides a sophisticated multi-layer enterprise firewall and a high-performance Web cache to control, secure and accelerate business on the Internet. ISA Server is part of Microsoft's Windows .NET® platform.